

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 2010

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Jersey City to Honor Diwali Mela 2010

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the **Municipal Council** and the **Division of Cultural Affairs** will hold an **12 p.m. press conference** on **Monday, November 1, 2010** to kick off the festival of **Diwali** at **City Hall, 280 Grove Street**.

To start **Diwali**, the press conference will feature a **candle-lighting ceremony** in celebration of the victory of good over evil in the individual, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. This will allow residents to engage in a full understanding of the Diwali Celebration as a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment of friendship and goodwill, and a celebration that seeks to honor the simple joys of life.

“Jersey City is one of the most diverse communities in the state, as well as the nation, and we are proud to honor and recognize our rich diversity,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The Festival of Diwali is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the history of Indian culture and the significance of this holiday in the Indian community.”

Sponsored by the **Newark Avenue Jersey City Chamber of Commerce**, Diwali Mela 2010 will be held on November 5th, 2010 and officially starts the Diwali celebration. Commonly known as the “Festival of Lights,” Diwali is an important festival in Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism; and is an official holiday in India. This year, **Diwali**, a contraction of the word **Deepavali**, continues through November 9.

Although celebrated through varying traditions and festivals across religions and regions, the essence of the festival, which is to rejoice in the Inner Light (Atman), remains the same.

For more information about Diwali Mela 2010, please contact Cultural Affairs at (201) 547-6921.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.